

## Belmont Council on Aging Board Meeting

Monday, November 1, 2010  
Conference Room, Beech Street Center

Present: Ethel Hamann, chair, Michael Cahalane, Neil Hegarty, Anne Lougee, Angela Mullin, Tomi Olson, MaryAnn Scali, Penny Schafer Joel Semuels, Nava Niv-Vogel

Absent: Dan Leclerc

The meeting was called to order by Ethel Hamann at 7:30 PM.

**Senior citizens concerns:** three citizens were present because of a discussion regarding the swimming program

**Past minutes:** the minutes were unanimously accepted.

### **General announcements:**

Meat raffle – November 17 at 6 PM. Ethel Hamann commented that this activity is fun

There is a crafts fair on Saturday, November 27. Holiday items will be available from 9 AM to 3 PM

### **Updates and Correspondences:**

Neil Hegarty stated that the Secretary of Elder Affairs will ask for resumes/materials pertinent to candidates for directors of the ASAPs. Five days will be allowed for agencies like Springwell (ASAP's) to review applications and comment. There were no issues with the annual audit; everything went well.

### **Protective Services**

Springwell has a telephone number and an 800 number for the reporting of physical abuse, emotional abuse and exploitation. In August there were 87 cases of senior abuse/elders at risk in the eight city/town Springwell area. There were 900+ up-to-date with 2200 active cases. The service is funded by the state, but not completely. some of the private fundraising that Springwell does is for this service. Neil handed out "The Source", a periodical produced by Springwell. This is Volume One of the year 2010.

The Council on Aging board introduced themselves to citizens attending the meeting. They were Rosemary Goode, Tony Messorre and Janice Ellard. Tony spoke in favor of women's aerobic class at the high school pool. They need that class because of arthritis. Will the program continue? The statement was raised that a Russian couple there on food stamps will be charged six dollars a session each so it costs \$12 week for this couple. What does the future hold?

Rosemary Goode said that the program schedule says nothing about swimming aerobics, only swimming.

**Directors report:**

We now have Russian speaking staff member. Most of the programs are at cost. With respect to the swimming program, the board thought the COA revolving budget would keep it going through November and December. The December newsletter should have an article about this and also the Belmont Citizen Herald. Previously, the cost was two dollars per session and the cost supposed to go up with the coming session. The board and director assent to the following: that the price remain at two dollars for the next session starting November in 2010. Further advertising by the COA and citizens can be done to enhance enrollment and that way reduce the cost. We will review this issue at the December session. The vote on the motion was unanimous, affirming the motion.

Nava's updates: we have been recertified as a CORI agency. One of the employees disseminated a flyer regarding a disciplinary matter. Nothing further was discussed about this matter.

Tax assistance program: David Linde, who heads up the AARP program, was not pleased about the paperwork that the law regarding dissemination of private information requires. The Division of Elder Affairs suggested that senior sign off to a waiver so that if they allow tax preparers that info, the law should be complied with. If there is no flexibility then AARP reports that it will cancel its service in Belmont. Nava was requested to contact Dave Stevens Although she already sought his consultation on this issue it was suggested that she

ask Elder Affairs Counsel for an opinion regarding whether chapter 66A may be a way to deal with this. It is a state wide issue. Maybe other towns have resolved this issue and we can learn from them. . We don't want to lose the program.

Nava reported that the Beech Street Center received an award from the Watertown Belmont Chamber of Commerce and that at the dinner it was clear that many from the chamber had been in to visit and understood the value to seniors..

**Senior center building committee:** not much to report. They are still trying to sell the generator.

**Friends:**

The October annual meeting went well. The fall newsletter is in progress although the time for production was slower than Anne would like. Fiscal year 2010 is to be closed by a meeting with the accountant.

**Long-term financial planning group**

There is nothing to report from Tom Younger or the Town Clerk regarding the history of the tax write off for the senior center furnishings fund, but we should publicize the ability for the public to contribute on their tax bill. December 28 is when the next bill is sent out, followed by March 15. It is tax-deductible for both federal and state taxes. Can we get an article in the citizen or the December newsletter? Nava said she would follow up with this request.

### **Fitness room working group**

Town Counsel is done with reworking the memorandum of understanding. The BEC gave its feedback and now we are waiting for the YMCA feedback. Membership to the program would be a great holiday present. Also, it was mentioned that many insurance plans would give a rebate.

### **Rentals / events team (Angela/Ethel/ Nava)**

We have taken over scheduling for rentals. There is another open house scheduled for December 1 from 6 to 8 PM. We have already missed the deadline for the Belmont Shopper. Maryann Scali has experience with various town advertising venues and will pursue those.

Ethel and Nava met with Tom Younger. It was agreed that the COA now has the ability to handle the rentals. He agreed to the idea of establishing a fee for a functions manager. Issues such as how late an event can take place was not discussed. We must comply with insurance especially with alcohol being involved. Prices for rentals are on the town website under the town documents hyperlink.

### **Strategy for fiscal year 2012 budget**

On November 3 Angela will attend the warrant committee meeting. Neil will attend on November 10. Penny will attend on November 17, the day of the meat raffle. Joel will attend on December 8. Penny or Neil will attend on December 15.

Anne went last Wednesday to the subcommittee meeting. The Council on Aging is included in the culture and recreation subcommittee. It is important that members of the COA attend. There existed lots of misinformation about the Council on Aging. Anne was able to correct some of that.

### **Policy regarding security cameras:**

Ralph Jones and Ethel talked. He will bring this issue up with the selectmen. Then we hope to discuss this with the selectmen.

The lighting at night is inadequate. It's dark outside now. There is very little money left in the senior center building committee budget to provide more lights. There are lights out

there but they're not on at night. The sidewalks are not lit. We may have to discuss this issue with Tom Younger.

**Board officer nominating committee**

A slate was proposed by the nominating committee. The new people will take over in January after a vote in December. The choice for proposed chair is Joel, the vice chair Angela, and the treasurer Mike.

**Holiday party:**

A date has been set, and Nave will get back to the board with that information. The entertainment and menu is also planned through.

Ethel Hamann adjourned the meeting at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cahalane